

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-4 and 6-12 have been amended to better define the subject matter Applicant regards as the invention. Support for the newly added features is provided in Figs. 3, 4, 6, and 10 and their accompanying descriptions in the specification.

Claims 1-12 were rejected, under 35 USC §102(e), as being anticipated by Lee et al. (US 6,611,914). To the extent these rejections are deemed applicable to the amended claims, Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claim 1 now recites:

A data processing system for executing at least one program to which access by a user is controlled by the provision of credentials assigned to said user, said system including:

at least one terminal including data processing means for executing at least part of said program, first memory means associated with said program for storing at least first credentials specific to said user, and

access control means for authorizing access to said program in response to an identified match between said first credentials stored in said first memory means and second credentials applied via said terminal to said program,

at least one security device personal to said user that is associated with said terminal and includes second memory means for secure storage of said second credentials,

said terminal including at least some of a credentials management means (CMP) that comprises:

reading and transmitting credentials means for reading said second credentials stored in said second memory means and transmitting the read second credentials to said access control means in response to presentation of a request to access said program, and

credentials updating means for selectively commanding the generation and loading, into said first and second memory means, of new credentials replacing, in response to the identified match of said first and second credentials, said first and second credentials previously stored.

Lee fails to disclose the feature recited in claim 1 of credentials updating means for selectively commanding the generation and loading, into first and second memory means, of new credentials replacing, in response to an identified match of first and second credentials, the first and second credentials previously stored therein. Stated more simply, Lee does not disclose replacing previously stored credentials with new credentials in response to identifying a match between two sets of the previously stored credentials.

By contrast to the claimed feature, Lee discloses a method of changing a password of an IC card in Fig. 11B (Lee col. 10, line 62-67). According to this method, the IC card is inserted through an insertion slot provided at one side of a keyboard and a computer is booted while a dedicated IC card diskette is inserted into drive A of the computer (col. 10, line 67, through col. 11, line 3). By executing a password change program from

drive A, a desired password can be re-recorded on the IC card according to a predetermined procedure (col. 11, lines 3-5). Next, the computer is booted from a hard disk and an application program for performing a computer security method is executed to display the IC card dialogue box on the screen (col. 11, lines 5-9). Then, the user selects a password change button shown in FIG. 11B and the password is changed (col. 11, lines 9-11).

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Lee does not anticipate the subject matter defined by claim 1 of replacing previously stored credentials with new credentials in response to identifying a match between two sets of the previously stored credentials. Therefore, allowance of claim 1 and all claims dependent therefrom is warranted.

Moreover, the teaching of Lee concerns a method for checking the right of a user to use a computer. This is something somewhat different from the system of the present application, which refers only to the access control of one executable program.

In the system of Lee, the computer remains locked (screen and/or keyboard are locked for normal usage) as long as an expected password has not been provided from a security card that is insertable in an inlet of the keyboard (Lee col. 3, lines 54-56) and a match with previously stored reference data has not

been achieved (col. 8, lines 53-55). By contrast to the present invention, the system of Lee is dedicated to the access control of the whole computer. Thus, once the password provided from the security card has been matched with the previously stored reference data, the user has the right to use the computer (see, for example, Lee's Fig. 7, step 710, Fig. 8, step 807, or Fig. 2, step 204). Specific hardware connections have to be established between the keyboard controller, which monitors the security card, and the system controller so as to transmit information from the IC card to the system controller, by the intermediary keyboard controller (col. 11 lines 21-38), and proceed to the access control check while the screen and normal usage of the keyboard are disabled.

In the system of Lee, the process of changing the system password occurs partly during the boot process of the computer. The security card diskette is inserted into a drive from which a password change program is executed. Once the computer is booted from a hard disk, the security card display box is displayed by the password change program on the screen where the user can select a change password button to trigger the change of the password (col. 11 lines 3-11).

In the present invention, the update of the credentials is not performed in response to the insertion of a diskette into a

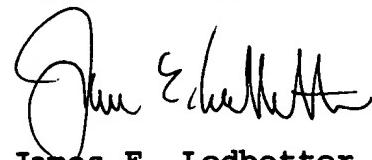
drive. Instead, the update of credentials occurs in response to an identified match between the credential read from the memory means of the PSD and the credential read from the memory means of the program to be accessed.

In addition, in Lee's system, the change of the password occurs while the computer program is still locked. The present invention does not require the program to be locked for changing the credential.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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